GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:388
ANSWERED ON:26.04.2016
Rehabilitation of Manual Scavengers
Patil Shri A.T. (Nana)

Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there exists any effective mechanism to identify the persons still working as manual scavengers in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the fresh steps taken by the Government to set up a mechanism in coordination with State Governments and UT Administrations to work at grass root level to identify manual scavengers and ensure their liberation and proper rehabilitation for their socio-economic development?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT
(SHRI VIAJY SAMPLA)

(a): Yes, Madam.

(b): Under "Prohibition of Employment as Manual Scavengers and their Rehabilitation Act, 2013 (MS Act, 2013)" Chief Executive Officers of the Municipalities/Municipal Corporation and Gram Panchayat are responsible for survey and identification of manual scavengers in urban and rural areas respectively under their jurisdiction. The mechanism for survey and identification of manual scavengers is prescribed in the MS Act, 2013 under Sections 11 and 12 for urban areas and under 14 and 15 for rural areas.

(c): Detailed guidelines for the survey of manual scavengers have been provided in the "Prohibition of Employment as Manual Scavengers and their Rehabilitation Rules, 2013 (MS Rules, 2013)". In addition, village level details of insanitary latrines as reported in Census-2011 and household-wise details of manual scavengers as reported in Socio-Economic Caste Census-2011 have been provided to the State Governments and Union Territory Administrations to facilitate survey and identification of manual scavengers. A Central Sector Scheme, "Self Employment Scheme for the Rehabilitation of Manual Scavengers (SRMS)" is implemented to liberate the identified manual scavengers from their traditional occupation and provide skill development training and financial assistance through loans with subsidy and at concessional rate of interest for taking up alternative livelihood projects on sustainable basis.